

MARINES TRAINING



▼ **MCRD PARRIS ISLAND, S.C.** – Recruits from D Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, acquire and engage targets under low light and air-illuminated conditions at Hue City Range here Oct. 5. The night fire exercise, a mandatory graduation requirement, takes place on training day 50. Recruits fire 60 rounds of ammunition from the 50- and 100-yard lines during the course of fire.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Brian Kester



Year in Review
ON THIS DATE:

06:28
2004

IRAQ – The United States officially hands over sovereignty to the Iraqi interim government two days early. Paul Bremer, the U.S. administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority, passes legal documents to an Iraqi judge during a low-key ceremony in Baghdad.





▲ **MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLOWS, Hawaii** – Marines from A Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, prepare for their deployment with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit by training in amphibious assault vehicles here April 22. During the exercise, the “Lava Dogs” performed their jobs while the AAVs charged through rough waters. “Being in the AAVs can (be) very claustrophobic because there are no windows inside,” said Sgt. Victor O’Neal, section leader for Combat Assault Company. “The diesel fuel can (be nauseating), and the Marines need to be able to handle those situations to react and perform the way they need to when arriving on the beach.” During amphibious operations, AAVs, which weigh 46,314 pounds unloaded, spearhead beach assaults. They carry infantry and supplies, with loads of up to 10,000 pounds, from ship to shore and provide forced entry into amphibious assault areas for the surface assault elements.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson



▲ **MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON** – Cpl. Bradley Dahlberg, a body bearer with B Company and Cpl. Eric Jahnke, former member of the Silent Drill Platoon, demonstrate blocks with weapons of opportunity during the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program Green Belt Instructor Course here Nov. 26. The three-week, 135-hour course upgraded the Marines’ most important weapons system – themselves. MCMAP, which began in the fall of 2000, has five basic levels of training denoted by tan, gray, green, brown and black belts. Black belts, the most senior belts, are further divided into six degrees. For each degree, a Marine earns a red stripe. *Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Kent Flora*



◀ **ALBANIA** – The Marines of G Battery return to their bivouac site after conducting a live fire exercise here in March. The battery, an artillery unit, is attached to Battalion Landing Team 1st Bn., 6th Marine Regiment, and is the ground combat element of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable). The MEU was in Albania for an amphibious landing exercise March 8-12 practicing day and night live fire exercises, patrols, and convoy operations. The unit deployed from Camp Lejeune, N.C., in mid-February as part of Expeditionary Strike Group 2.

Photo by Cpl. Jemssy Alvarez



▼ **MCAS CHERRY POINT, N.C.** – Sgt. Jonathan T. Spaulding monitors the radar screen to ensure an inbound KC-130J lands safely. The San Antonio native is one of 14 air traffic controllers to graduate Aug. 27 from the three-week terminal instrumental procedures course taught by the Transportation Safety Institute here. The course teaches air traffic controllers how to establish detailed flight procedures regarding the minimum speed, altitude and angle of approach an aircraft must maintain to make a safe landing. Offering the course here allows Marine Corps Air Bases East to train more Marines in less time without paying the travel expenses of sending them to an eight-week course at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Miss.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Will Acosta

Year in Review
ON THIS DATE:

06:30
2004

IRAQ – The United States hands over legal custody of Iraqi former President Saddam Hussein to the new Iraqi interim government. He will physically remain in U.S. custody until the Iraqi police provide a secure facility. It is expected that he will be prosecuted on 12 charges, including war crimes and crimes against humanity.



▲ **CENTRAL TRAINING AREA, Okinawa, Japan** – Lance Cpl. Benjamin C. Foged and Cpl. Justin L. Clevenger stand back to back providing front and rear security during basic room entry and clearing training at the combat town here April 8. They are part of the Provost Marshal's Special Reaction Team, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. SRT is the Marine Corps' version of SWAT, said Staff Sgt. Steven Rowe the team's commander. Military policemen selected for the team attend SRT School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. The two-week course focuses on tactics, marksmanship and special threat situations, like responding to terrorist incidents.

Photo by Cpl. Ryan Walker

▼ **ZAMBOANGA, Philippines** – Heavy equipment operator Pfc. Christopher J. Waldon prepares for a simulated emergency reaction drill at the military command liaison element here Sept. 18. Marines with Headquarters Battery, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, arrived here Sept. 15 to relieve fellow headquarters battery Marines in support of Joint Special Operation Task Force Philippines. The Marines are providing force protection for the military command structure and security for convoy operations and incoming military aircraft. Waldon is with the new Marine security element here.

Photo by Cpl. Trevor M. Carlee



▲ **MCAS CHERRY POINT, N.C.** – Marines conduct "hot reload" training here May 19. Refuelers from Marine Wing Support Squadron 271 refueled an AH-1W Super Cobra helicopter after ordnance Marines rendered it safe at Landing Zone Bluebird. Within 15 minutes, the aircraft was refueled, reloaded, rearmed, back in the air, and poised to accomplish its mission. Super Cobras are armed with one 20 mm turreted cannon holding 750 rounds; four external wing stations that can fire rockets; and a wide variety of precision guided missiles, including point target and antiarmor tube-launched, optically-tracked, wire-guided missiles, antiarmor Sidewinder missiles and antiradar Sidearm missiles.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Rocco DeFilippis



▼ **MCB QUANTICO, Va.** – U.S. and Dutch Marines practice insertion and extraction drills in the snow at Landing Zone Albatross here Feb. 12. The drills were part of a bilateral-exchange training package between Dutch Royal Marines from Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, and a platoon of reserve Marines from K Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, Moundsville, W. Va. The exchange fosters better working relationships and understanding between the two countries' Marines. "The best part about training with the Royal Marines was meeting them and experiencing a bit of their culture," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Robert M. Kuhn, operations officer for 3rd Bn.

Photo by Mark Turney



◀ **MANDA BAY NAVAL BASE, Kenya** – Marines board traditional fishing vessels, known as dhows, here Jan. 6 for the trip to Lamu, an island town where Marines will work to refurbish a local boys' school. The Marines and sailors, with 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), arrived here Jan. 5 for Exercise Edged Mallet-04, a bilateral training and humanitarian assistance exercise conducted annually with Kenyan Department of Defense forces. More than 250 MEU personnel participated in numerous training events and community relations projects throughout the coastal regions of Kenya. The exercise was designed to strengthen the longstanding military-to-military relationship that exists between the United States and Kenya.

Photo by Sgt. Adrian R. Pascual

Year in Review
ON THIS DATE:

07:04
2004

NEW YORK – The city celebrates construction of the Freedom Tower where the World Trade Center once stood. The new building's planned 1,776-foot height will make it one of the tallest in the world. It is scheduled to be completed in 2009.



▲ **MCAS MIRIMAR, Calif.** – A Marine with full combat gear swims laps at the combat water survival training facility here during the eight-day Combat Water Safety Swimmers course in April. To qualify for the course, Marines must complete a 500-meter swim in less than 13 minutes; a 50-meter lifesaving swim with a 10-pound brick; and a 25-meter underwater swim to retrieve a 10-pound weight from the bottom of the pool. Of the 22 hopefuls who tried out in April, six met the requirements and only three graduated. Marines were evaluated on lifesaving rescues, the proper execution of strokes and aquatic confidence skills. To graduate, Marines must swim 500 meters in less than 11 minutes and pass all written exams. “After completing this course, students should be able to handle themselves in any aquatic situation,” said Sgt. Ryan N. Maus, primary CWSS instructor and San Diego native.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones

➤ **YECHON AIR FORCE BASE, Republic of Korea** – A Marine aims a M-2 .50 caliber machine gun at a gate as a Korean reaction squad prepares to rush during combined reaction team training here March 23. Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 and troops with the Republic of Korea Air Force 16th Fighter Wing engaged in air base ground defense exercises during Exercise Foal Eagle March 23-25. The exercises trained Marines to provide effective rear security in a forward operating environment and prepared them to operate in a combat environment with Korean allies, said 1st Lt. Mark R. Budzyn, Base Defense Operations Center officer in charge.

Photo by Lance Cpl. David Revere



▼ **FORT A.P. HILL, Va.** – A Marine with MEU Service Support Group 24, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, climbs across wooden logs on a confidence course here March 15. The course challenged Marines with log-based obstacles, many more than 30 feet high. The obstacles tested balance, coordination and upper body strength and increased Marines’ proficiency at maneuvering through rough terrain area. The training is part of the MEU’s predeployment workups.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Sarah A. Beavers



▲ **MCAS NEW RIVER, N.C.** – Marines rush into a building to bring down a sniper as part of Military Operations in Urban Terrain training held at the combat town here March 20. The Marines are with Motor Transport Division, Marine Wing Support Squadron 272. This urban setting is ideal because during combat Marines may be assigned missions to secure buildings or homes, and they need to know the proper procedures to do so, said 1st Lt. Shawn H. Daley, division commander. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Marines planted six dummy unexploded devices, resembling grenades, mines and bombs, in the area around the training site to simulate unexpected dangerous conditions.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Zachary R. Frank

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07:27
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CAMP LOUMIA, Chad – The Chad Army antiterrorist battalion graduated from an eight-week training syllabus conducted by Marines of the Pan Sahel Initiative Mobile Training Team. The 25 Marines based here are from U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Atlantic and II Marine Expeditionary Force. The Pan Sahel Initiative is designed to improve military training in Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger.



< **MCB CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** – Marines from 2nd Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, II Marine Expeditionary Force, fast rope out of a MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft here Nov. 5. ANGLICO Marines, with help from Special Operations Training Group instructors, focused on testing the Osprey's capabilities. "(The Osprey) is a fairly new aircraft. Our job is to certify it as safe," said Gunnery Sgt. Jim M. Boutin, SOTG instructor and Haverhill, Mass., native. The Osprey can fly at a maximum altitude of 26,000 feet, about 15,000 feet higher than a helicopter. This innovative aircraft can also fly nearly twice as fast and three times farther than a helicopter and needs less runway length than a traditional airplane – less than 500 feet.

Photo by Cpl. Lana D. Waters

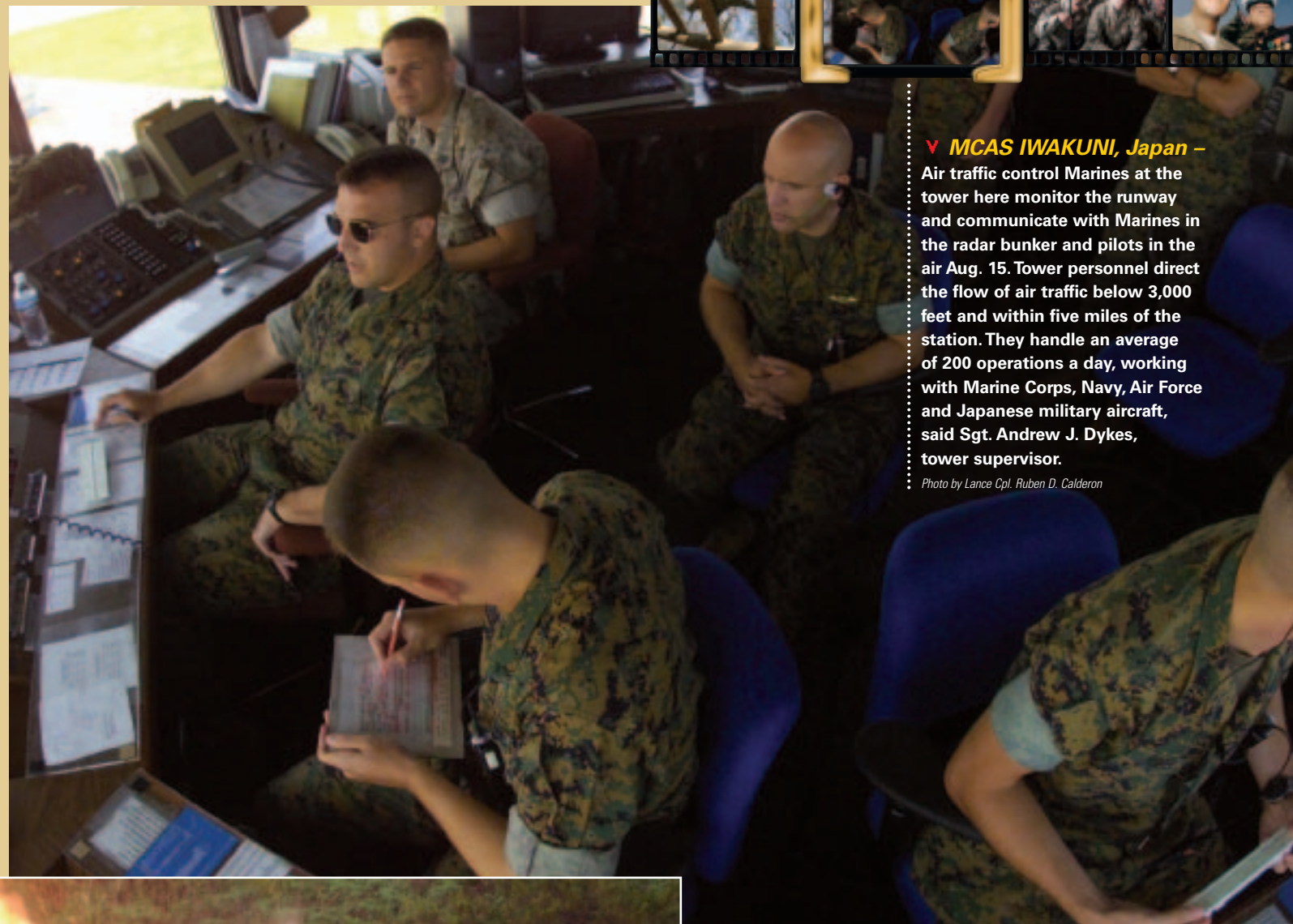


> **TUNGPONG BAY, Thailand** – Insects found in the jungle are cooked and placed in bamboo shoots for a 24-hour jungle survival training class here May 14-15 during exercise Cobra Gold 2004. Marines learned which jungle plants, fruits and insects are edible in the Thai jungle, sampling some of the insects themselves. They also learned to kill, skin and cook a cobra during the class taught by Thai reconnaissance Marines. "I have never been here before and this is my first deployment," said Pfc. Christopher M. Garcia, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division. "It's good to work with the Thai Marines and learn the different things that they have to show us."

Photo by Lance Cpl. Rose A. Muth

> **CAMP HANSEN, OKINAWA, Japan** – A Kevlar blanket shields Marines in stack formation from the blast of an explosive charge during the 10-day Dynamic Entry Basic Course here June 2. The blast blew a man-sized hole into a wall. With these advanced breaching skills Marines can enter secure buildings and recover cargo or information. "We want the maximum amount of penetration with the least amount of collateral damage," said Gunnery Sgt. John R. Gouley Jr., senior dynamic entry instructor, III Marine Expeditionary Force Special Operations Training Group.

Photo by Cpl. Ryan Walker



> **MCAS IWAKUNI, Japan** – Air traffic control Marines at the tower here monitor the runway and communicate with Marines in the radar bunker and pilots in the air Aug. 15. Tower personnel direct the flow of air traffic below 3,000 feet and within five miles of the station. They handle an average of 200 operations a day, working with Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Japanese military aircraft, said Sgt. Andrew J. Dykes, tower supervisor.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Ruben D. Calderon

Year in Review
ON THIS DATE:

08:02
2004

AN NAJAF, Iraq – Marines from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) receive small arms, rocket propelled grenade and mortar fire while driving past the An Najaf Maternity Hospital during a security patrol in the city. Marines returned fire, taking caution to avoid all noncombatants. It is estimated that two insurgent fighters were killed during the engagement.